



JUNE 2024

“ then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy”

(Psalm 126: 2)

Where there is laughter, there is little violence in the world. Laughter is an effective antidote to violence and many of its sources: frustration, hurt, depression. Laughter stops an argument midstream. Like a pin in a balloon, it dissipates pent-up anger. We may not know the physiology of laughter, but we do know its results.

Silliness is similar. Children love to act silly. It's sometimes frustrating for adults, but it is also delightful. Silly children are generally not violent children. And children love to see adults being silly. Rolling on the floor together, making silly faces, using silly phrases, or playing silly games,---- it all lightens up the atmosphere.

So much of life is serious---even our play time--- and it's not just parents of potential Olympic athletes who push their children to become the best. There is nothing wrong with being the best you can be. But there is a difference between “being your best” and “ being the best”.

In our highly competitive society, excessive competition often leads to violence. Some coaches and athletes, for example, want blood as well as victory. To them, being number 2 means being a loser. Sports should be fun. And winning secondary.

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Adults can help bring about this change in perspective in a number of ways. They can carefully order the questions they put to their children after an athletic event the children participated in. First, “was it fun?” Next, “Did you do your best?” Finally, “ what were the results?” they can also encourage cooperative games as part of family or group playing. Making animal sculptures, for example, or machines out of bodies of participants are always big hits at family camps. Making fun games a part of extended family celebrations can enrich those celebrations, cut family tensions, put people at ease, and make these events real celebrations. A family fun night once or twice is another way to reduce the possibility of abuse or other destructive behavior in a family system. The more we laugh, the less we hurt. What a sad commentary on our society to see play reduced to either entertainment or competition, both of which are becoming more violent by the year.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO INSERT MORE LAUGHTER AND
SILLINESS INTO YOUR LIFE?
PLAY THIS SUMMER**

BLESSINGS,
DENNIS



GWIM FOOD BANK DONATIONS



Food Pantry
Donations Needed

Peanut Butter & Jelly, Canned Meats, Cold Cereal, Mac & Cheese, Pasta & Pasta Sauce, Juice, tuna, canned soups-stews-chili, canned fruits, canned vegetables, beans (canned or dried), rice pouches, etc. Other

donations will be welcomed, but these will be the main focus. The food basket will be available each week in the Narthex.



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Beginning June 28th through September 1st the Church Office will be closing at noon on Fridays.



Scholarship Sunday News!



On Sunday, **June 9, 2024** following the Worship service, the Scholarship Committee will be hosting a reception for Scholarship Recipients, their families, and members of the church.

It would be greatly appreciated if members could help the committee by bringing cookies or finger sandwiches. You may drop them off in the kitchen before the service.

Thanking you in Advance!





JUNE "BIRTHDAY" WISHES

Happy Birthday to the following

Church Members

Mike Sugrue 6/1
Preston Larrabee 6/3
Liliya Bikbova 6/7
Sarah Hughes 6/10
Jill Rodriguez 6/12
Alan Walker 6/15
Melanie Gagnon 6/16
Bonnie Gagnon 6/17

Richard Casey 6/19
Sandra Post 6/24
Cindy Merrick 6/24
Christine Phelan 6/26
Phillip Read Mason, Jr. 6/26
Leanne Elwell 6/26
Joseph Trenske 6/28



ATTENTION MEMBERS & FRIENDS House Warming Get-Together!

Last year after everyone kept asking what can we do for Kristen, I had put a little blurb in the newsletter that we would help Kristen, and her family when she returned back to her rebuilt home after going through a devastating fire on Mother's Day last year.

So we decided to have a little get-together on June 19th at 7 pm in the Hearth Room. Everyone can bring their favorite dessert, beverages will be provided.

I have asked Kristen to set up a Gift Registry on Target where she lists the items that she needs to start over again. Please feel free to go on the Target online registry to see if you would like to purchase an item off the registry or just get a gift card or anything that you can do to make this a new and wonderful beginning for the Perham's in their newly rebuilt home in Bristol. Hope to see you there. Roxanne

From the Director of Music/Youth/ Building Superintendent



With summer just around the corner, there are still many activities coming up you will want to make note of. Music Sunday will be Sunday, June 16. The service will open with our drum circle which is led by Kristen Perham, our Bell Choir which started last year and played for the first time for Hanging of the Greens will play, it's gearing up to be a wonderful service.

While we have had to make some alterations to The Chosen viewing because season 4 is still in production, we will instead for the moment have a game pot-luck game night. Kindness 101 will continue to meet as scheduled over the summer, while each episode is roughly 5 min long we have a wonderful discussion about both episodes, if you have time to attend I encourage you to do so. The Bell Choir will also continue to meet over the summer as we are preparing music for Hanging of the Greens, Yes I know, already? Bell Choir doesn't require an ability to read music while it would be helpful if it is not required, I encourage anyone with an interest in playing to maybe attend a rehearsal to see what it's all about.

I would like to thank everyone who attended or helped with the Waterbury Chapter of the American Guild of Organists concert featuring Ronald Ebrecht. The concert was a success with funds being raised for the Guild Scholarship program. Future events with the Guild are being planned here at First Church! A huge thank you to Karen Cotner & Cathy Crouse and everyone who helped set up the wonderful reception which followed the concert.

The Joy of Christmas Dinner has been a major outreach program here at First Church for over 50 years, providing the love & joy on Christmas Day that so many would not receive if it wasn't for this meal.

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So I will take the bull by the horns and put a group together to figure it out. While I would encourage anyone interested to attend, I am specifically looking for individuals who have experience in food service, not so much to cook the meal but to come up with some ideas and options. I have also reached out to Rev. Maner Tyson from Waterbury Baptist Ministries for some thoughts on the matter. More to come!

Terrific Tuesday's will be July 9, 16, 23, 30. First Church will be responsible for July 23 & 30.

Haunted House/Halloween party October 25-26.

The American Guild of Organists members recital will be held here on Sunday, November 3rd. More information to come!

The Church Fair will be Saturday, November 9th. I already have several vendors lined up, more information for vendors will be released at the beginning of July.

The Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, December 8th at 4:00pm.

There will be several building projects over the summer months, please keep an eye out for notifications on certain areas that might be affected. I would also like to put together a men's group to work on small projects over the course of the year. I will coordinate this with Stuart Post who is head of building & grounds. Stay tuned!

Stewart Crouse



**First Congregational Church & Waterbury
Baptist Ministries present:
Terrific Tuesdays in July**

*Sponsored in part by
First Church Outreach*

July 9th	ROCKIN Heartbeats
July 16th	The Kerry Boys
July 23rd	Sean MacDonald
July 30th	Mateo Macias

Volunteers needed for: Set-up, serving and clean-up from 5 pm to 7 pm Serving hot dogs, chips & beverage. Come, bring a friend, a lawn chair enjoy the evenings! We know that these are popular concerts and hope that you will use the opportunity for introducing your friends and neighbors to our lively and spirited church.

We need beef hotdog donations!!





**ATTENTION MEMBERS:
WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!!**

Patrons' Page in the Terrific Tuesday Program booklet!
A DONATION FROM OUR MEMBERS AND WATERBURY BAPTIST MINISTRIES MEMBERS. **A PATRON DONATION WILL BE \$25.00.** IF ANYONE IS ABLE AND WANTS TO MAKE A DONATION PLEASE SEND IN YOUR CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25.00 IN THE MEMO PLEASE PUT TERRIFIC TUESDAYS.

WE ARE HOPING THAT THIS WILL ALL COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN AS IT DID IN YEAR'S PAST!! **PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DONATIONS BY JUNE 18TH.** WE APPRECIATE ALL YOU CAN DO!!

